[President.]

shared his life and being with the rest of his countrymen, that every man, woman and child in Travancore will stand united under the banner of His Highness the Maharaja to defend that heritage against aggression of every kind. We shall hold ourselves out as an example of unity and united effort, fully conscious of the realities of the situation that is fast developing around and amidst us. Let us not be carried away by slogans or blind imitation. If, to-day, Travancore, holds its head high among the political units in India, it is because of the benefits of settled and ordered government, settled and ordered rule brought about by a long and illustrious line of selfless rulers with the ungrudging co-operation and loyal support of a proud, intelligent and patriotic people. At no time in the history of this country has the need been more paramount or the call more urgent than at present when every community, class and creed should sink all differences and work together to preserve the State's integrity and to promote the true interests of its people under the fostering care of His Highness the Maharaja. My only regret, as it is yours, is that we shall be missing, though for a short interval—and I hope it will be a very short interval—the immediate presence in our midst of that veteran statesman whose resourcefulness would have been of inestimable value to us. But it is my fervent hope that our united efforts would pull us through. I feel sure that it will be the aim and endeavour of every Travancorean to create and maintain an atmosphere best suited to enable all classes of people and all shades of opinion to concentrate on the supreme need of the hour, namely, the effective resistance to the enemy knocking at our very doors and the maintenance of ordered Government with a view to foster and promote the general well-being and contentment of the many millions of His Highness' loyal and devoted people.

I once more thank you most sincerely for the very kind words which you have uttered.

PRESIDENT'S STATEMENT RE DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

President: Before we proceed to the general discussion of the budget, I wish to draw the attention of the honourable members to the general rules and the procedure which have to be observed in the discussion and debates in this House on the budget.

As you are already aware, the debate on the budget will begin today with a general discussion followed by the voting of demands for grants from tomorrow. The maximum of four days allowed under Rule 74 of the Legislative Rules has been allotted for the latter. The demands will be discussed in the order in which they appear in the printed list placed in your hands. The demands

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under II—Land Revenue and Taxes on Income, and VII—Public Works Department including Water Works and Drainage may each be discussed for half a day, and not more than one hour will be allotted for each of the remaining demands.

The procedure in calculating the time for the voting of demands will be the one adopted in previous years. A day will be taken as from 11 A. M. to 5 P. M. of which the first hour is available for questions and answers and another hour, 1 to 2 P. M., will be the lunch interval. The remaining four hours will be reckoned as a full day and two hours as half a day. If the time taken up for questions and answers is less than an hour, the remaining time will also be available to the House for the voting of demands, but such available time will not go to increase the time allotted for any one demand, and will only be able for the House to reach more demands.

Honourable members of the Council are of course aware that they should discuss each demand as a whole and vote upon it as a whole without moving for the reduction of any grant or of any item in a grant. To enable the discussion of each demand in the Council it is not necessary that the members should send in any specific motion, and the Council will have the right to assent or refuse its assent to any demand when it is put to the House.

During the general discussion no member other than the Financial Secretary will be allowed more than 15 minutes, and in the voting of demands for grants the time limit for speeches for members will be 10 minutes. I hope honourable members will so adjust their speeches as to make it possible for a large number of their colleagues including the official members to participate in the debate.

The discussion of the budget will now proceed.

GENERAL DISCUSSION OF THE BUDGET.

Mr. N. Krishna Aiyar: Sir, I congratulate the Financial Secretary on his very lucid, brief and illuminating speech made while presenting the budget. It has been rightly termed by the Dewan-President, as a War Budget and a prosperity Budget. It is really remarkable that during the course of the past five years, the revenues of our State have reached a peakfigure of Rs. 3 crores, gradually rising from Rs. 2 1/2 crores in the last four years and latterly by making a sudden leap to the present level during the current year. Ordinarily, considering the great disparity of Rs. 20 lakhs between the estimated figure and the actuals, one

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